The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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PRESIDENT'S LABOR POLICY WOULD ESTABLISH SLAVERY

—Congressman Huddleston.

Washington, Dec. 17.—"I wonder if the president remembers the thirteenth amendment to the constitution?

"I wonder if he knows that slavery is forbidden in America?

"I wonder if he realizes for what principle all the blood was shed in the civil war?

"Is he trying to turn back the stream of time and bring back into this country the day of the manacle, when serfs will be made to work at the dictates of their master?

"Are we to establish in this professedly democratic country an autocracy of employers of labor?"

The above questions were asked by Congressman Huddleston of Alabama in a spirited attack on that portion of President Harding's message to congress in which he expressed sympathy for "can't-strike" legislation.

"And what does the president mean—analyze the language in which it is framed," continued the law maker. "It need no emphasis from me. It is as clear as words can make it that the policy of the administration does not contemplate mediation nor mere arbitration courts, such as the railroad labor board, but has in view labor tribunals such as the Kansas industrial court.

"It means courts with power to stand over the men who toil and say to them, 'You will not quit your job. Your occupation is charged with a public interest and you shall continue to labor for such wages as we shall decide are fair and just. You shall not strike before having your disputes decided by us.' It means a policy on the part of this administration which will take away the right that working men in this country have had to decide their own affairs for themselves.

"It means that men will be thrown into jails who dare to strike without asking the permission of some court created by congress and composed of the appointees of the present administration.

"It has remained for the chief executive of this nation to recommend a policy toward men who labor beyond comparison with any government in the world.

"As between workers and employers, fights can never be altogether fair fights. Each side in a labor fight has different things at stake. With an employer it is a matter, perhaps, of some more bank shares or a finer home; perhaps a marble palace instead of one of brick. It is merely a matter of another limousine or another cluster of jewels for his wife and another aigrette in her bonnet. It is merely a matter of profits from his plant. Oh, it is not such an awfully important matter with the employer. But with the man who toils his bread is at stake.

"The struggle between the employer and employe can never be a fair fight. One has in the scale only a question of profits. The other has the means of existence for his wife and children at stake.

"Such a fight can never be a fair fight, yet when conditions are even fairly equal, when there is a measure of prosperity, then you may have a certain admiration for the hard-handed employer who goes down into a fight with his employe.

"Oh, we all love a fair fight. But what about hitting a man when he is down? What about hitting the worker when his hands are tied. What about hitting the workers when they are walking the streets, ragged and starving? And how about the working man's wife and children, for whom he is responsible and who are dependent upon him?"

"PITTSBURGH PLUS" SHOWS TRUST'S POWER

Chicago, Dec. 17.—Low-wage advocates are still insisting that workers reduce their income a few pennies an hour and thereby reduce their living standard and their purchasing power, but no mention is made of "Pittsburgh plus," which is added to every pound of steel, by the steel trust.

"Pittsburgh plus" means that a steel manufacturer must add to every ton of steel he sells the freight cost of the steel from Pittsburgh, although the steel never sees Pittsburgh. Millions of dollars are annually filched from the people through this system.

Outside of Pittsburgh, the three largest steel producing centers are Chicago, Birmingham and Duluth. The three latter cities are known as low-cost centers, mainly because of their proximity to the raw material. To enable the high-cost plants in Pittsburgh to operate the trust has evolved its "Pittsburgh plus" scheme, which it enforces because of its control of the raw material and its financial power.

Under this system, if a Chicago contractor buys steel at a local mill, he is also charged the freight rate on the steel from Pittsburgh. If the price of bars at Pittsburgh is $50 a ton, and the freight rate is $7.50 a ton, he is charged $57.50. If a Birmingham contractor buys a ton of plates from a Birmingham mill, and the Pittsburgh price is $50 and the freight rate to Birmingham is $12.50 he must pay $62.50.

The federal trade commission has opposed this hold up on industry, as has state legislatures, manufacturers, contractors, farmers and shippers, but the steel trust is more powerful than all these.

TRAINED CONCILIATORS.

Washington, Dec. 17.—In his first annual report Secretary of Labor Davis asks congress to appropriate $250,000 for the appointment of technicians as conciliators in each of the 12 basic industries of the country.

The secretary says that the "usefulness of these special men will extend far outside this sphere of settling occasional controversies."

"They will," he says, "be particularly useful in talks to meetings of the working people or the general public on the subject of sound economic principles. They will be able to explain the working problems of management and they may keep the managers reminded of the trials and struggles of their employes.

"The man assigned to each of these basic industries must know his special industry from top to bottom. He must know every technical process involved in that industry. He must know what is to be expected of every worker in each step of the process. He must also know something of the operation of management so as to have the necessary understanding of the problems and hazards that go with the handling of business."

VANISHING TIMBER SUPPLY.

Washington, Dec. 17.—"The outstanding points in our present serious situation as to timber supply are the disappearance of three-fifths of the virgin forests of the country," said Chief Forester Greeley in his annual report.

"The present drain upon our remaining forests is over four times their yearly production and results in the accumulation of enormous areas of denuded and idle forest lands."

The forester recommends that forests be protected from fire and that legislation provide for the restoration of forests on denuded areas.

PORTO RICO'S NEEDS.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Sanitation work in Porto Rico is in need of improvement to lower the death rate and the island's school system should be strengthened, said Governor Reily in his annual report. The island is a good customer for the United States, as $97,000,000 of its $105,000,000 imports came from this country.

Monarchial interests in Porto Rico re attempting to oust Governor eily. Their agents are in this city t to date they have made little ogres.

Company "Union" Is Packers' Alibi

Chicago, Dec. 17.—When governors of several states were told, nearly 30 years ago, that "I have nothing to arbitrate," the public administered a severe slap on the wrist to the author of that statement. Then the public said: "Let another employer dare take that position."

But employers have perfected their system as the packers' strike shows. Offers to arbitrate have been rejected by the meat barons. They say, as did Pullman, "We have nothing to arbitrate."

The packers have formed a company "union," and this is their alibi. The "union" accepted wage cuts and thousands of workers have struck in protest. The alleged "unionists are working with strikebreakers, and the packers refuse to arbitrate because "our men are satisfied."

The system is a decided improvement over 20 years ago, when employers knew nothing of the parlor manners of secret diplomacy.

The public is not interested in the strike because their meat supply, so far, has not been affected.

"WATCH LEGISLATION."

Washington, Dec. 17.—"Watch all legislation and keep a record of legislators" says President Gompers in a statement issued to the general labor movement.

"Wherever labor organizations have established legislative committees," says the A. F. of L. executive, "they have been generally successful in either preventing hostile legislation against the wage earners or keeping it down to a minimun. It is, therefore, necessary that every organization should be awake to the dangers that will come to the wage workers if they neglect to select willing and effective members on their legislative committees.

"In the A. F. of L. headquarters we are keeping accurate record of the members of both houses of congress. Records of every member of a local legislative body should be kept by the respective legislative committees. During political campaigns the legislative committees of each organization may automatically become non-partisan political campaign committees. They will make public at the proper time the labor records of all legislators who have been false to the people, as well as of those who have been true to the people.

"Permit me to most strongly impress upon all the necessity of closely watching all proposed legislation in order that the rights and interests of labor and all the people will be rigidly safeguarded."

KILLER ON TRIAL.

Welch, W. Va., Dec. 17.—The criminal court is hearing evidence in the case of C. E. Lively and two others, who are charged with the murder of Sid Hatfield and Ed Chambers, last August.

The murdered men came to Welch with their wives to answer an indictment. They were met on the steps of the court house by Lively, who opened fire on them.

Lively is a self confessed spy. He acknowledged to the senate committee that investigated West Virginia mine conditions that he operated a restaurant and posed as a friend of the miners, while in the pay of the Baldwin-Felts detective agency. He also confessed that he killed a man during the miners' strike in Colorado in 1914.

IS PROBING MILK STRIKE.

New York, Dec. 17. — The board of aldermen has appointed a committee to probe the strike of milk wagon drivers. President La Guardia of the board denounced employers for denying employes the right to organize. Several thousand teamsters are involved. They offered to submit differences to arbitration, but the employers refused.

ESTABLISH 10-HOUR DAY.

Chicago, Dec. 17.—The railroad labor board has established the 10-hour day for railroad maintenance-of-way employes by eliminating the penalty for work over eight hours. The time and one-half provision now applies after 10 hours.

WOMEN'S LAWS ENDANGERED BY "EQUAL RIGHTS" SCHEME

Washington Dec. 17.—Some officers and members of the national woman's party oppose legislation for women wage earners and the party itself has never taken a stand on the question.

The "equal rights" amendment to the federal constitution, urged by the woman's party, would annul all legislation that protects women wage earners, or would accomplish the same result by subjecting these laws to long litigation.

The above points are made by the women's committee on industrial legislation, representing nine organizations of women, who oppose the amendment, which is as follows:

> "No political, civil or legal disabilities or inequalities on account of sex, or on account of marriage, unless applying to both sexes, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

In an open letter to Miss Alice Paul and associate officers of the national woman's party, Miss Ethel Smith, legislative secretary of the national women's trade union league, says:

"You have declined to accept any responsibility for the results of your amendment should it interfere with these laws.

"You have stated that some of your executive board and part of your membership do oppose these laws.

"By declining to state to us your own personal position on that point you imply opposition, because we are informed that to others you have said that these laws should go.

"By rejecting suggested drafts of your amendment which contained a proviso protecting the law regulating employment conditions of women, in favor of a draft, which lawyers say will endanger them, you have implied that you do not care to protect them.

"We ask the national woman's party to declare itself on this issue, because we believe the women of the country who have secured the passage of the social welfare laws are entitled to this information in forming their opinions as to the desirability of your proposed amendment."

Jackson H. Ralston, the well known attorney and economist of this city has declared that the proposed amendment would jeopardize all women's labor legislation, and "would affect our social ecomony in many ways not now appreciated."

This situation again reminds trade unionists that vote hunters generally keep in mind their economic interests.

Setting Basic Wage Degrades Wage Earners

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Dec. 17.—The government policy of setting a basic wage for workers is the subject of this scathing editorial by the Australian Worker:

"Have you ever taken a good, square look at the process of fixing wages? Has it ever struck you how ignominious it is—what a degradation of human dignity it is?

"A solemn tribunal sits and hears evidence. Men and women take the witness stand and testify that so much bread, butter and beef is required to keep a human being alive; that sugar and milk are also necessary in certain quantities; and that clothes on the back and a roof above the head are considered indispensable in civilized countries, to which the blessings of Christianity have spread, though the clothes need only be shabby and the roof not altogether sound.

"Then these witnesses are examined to show that a human being can be kept alive on smaller quantities of bread, butter and beef, and that the amount of sugar and milk required has been exaggerated; and women are badgered about the quality of the stockings they wear, and the price they pay for their corsets.

"Articles of underwear and overwear are brought before the tribunal and subjected to a searching inspection, with the object of ascertaining whether something inferior is not good enough for the working class.

"Inquiries are also made as to the number of children women bear on the average, and the statement that they bear two and one-half children is warmly denied, and statistics are produced to prove that one child and three-quarters is all they are entitled to claim support for.

"After days and weeks of this inquisitorial procedure, the tribunal adds up what it will cost to buy the quantities of bread, butter, beef, sugar, milk, potatoes and tinned fish that are requisite to keep a human being alive, multiplies the result by the average family, adds something for a small supply of shoddy clothes and a roof with not too many holes in it, and—that's the basic wage!

"When prices increase, the wage goes up in a strictly arithmetical proportion; when prices fall, down comes the wage as well.

"No provision is made for the betterment of working class conditions. The workers' status in life is not to improve. They are to remain forever the drudges of the rich, just getting enough to eat and drink so long as they are able to toil, and when they are sick or unemployed, scraping through existence God knows how."

FOUR-POWER TREATY SIGNED BY NATIONS

Washington, Dec. 17.—Representatives of the United States, Great Britain, France and Japan in attendance at the armament conference have signed a four-power Pacific treaty.

Each of the parties agree to recognize the other's rights "in relations to their insular possessions and insular dominions in the regions of the Pacific ocean."

In the event that a dispute arises that can not be settled by diplomacy, the other parties to the treaty shall be included in a conference to which the whole subject shall be referred for consideration and adjustment.

Where one of the parties threaten the rights of an associate the injured party shall communicate with the others to arrive at an understanding as to measures to be taken "jointly or separately to meet the exigencies of the particular situation."

In the event that the governments of the contracting parties accept the treaty, the treaty between Great Britain and Japan shall terminate.

The life of the treaty is 10 years, but a nation may withdraw after a 12-months' notice.

With the collapse of Russia and Japan's seizure of the Chinese province of Shantung from Germany the four powers that have signed the treaty dominate the Pacific.

WEEKS WANTS "BIG STICK."

Washington, Dec. 17.—Secretary of War Weeks has made a mess of things by his recent New York speech in which he condemned the senate farm bloc and called for a return of the "big stick" to replace present policies in the senate and house.

The farm bloc has kicked over party traces, much to the consternation of managers of both parties. The spirit behind the farm bloc is non-partisan, but this is distasteful to the party worshipper—and also to special privilege, with its constant warning that group legislation is "un-American."

The farm bloc has been condemned by "our best citizens," and at a meeting of insurance presidents in New York, Secretary Weeks took a whirl at educating senators from the agricultural states.

The result was unexpected. Instead of receiving their chastisement with due humility, these lawmakers are mad clear through.

The situation is distressing to old-line politicians of both parties.

"NOT LEGALLY REQUIRED."

Philadelphia, Dec. 17.—Lack of proper signals on the Philadelphia & Reading railroad branch line between Bryn Athyn and Churchville resulted in the loss of 25 lives. In its story of this disaster, the Philadelphia North American said:

"A high official of the Reading was asked why, despite 'blind' curves between the two stations, there were no signals.

"'Why, man, we are not legally required to have them,' he said."

CANTWELL ELECTED.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Edward J. Cantwell, secretary of the National Association of Letter Carriers, has been elected by the national welfare council to represent them in the welfare department of the post office department. The council consists of the several organizations of postal employes, including those affiliated with the A. F. of L.

"CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW DEFIED BY WORKERS

Denver, Dec. 17.—The "can't-strike" court of this state, known as the state industrial commission, is in an embarrassing position.

Under the law a strike is illegal unless the commission is given a 30-days' notice. The Colorado Fuel and Iron company, a Rockefeller unit, cut wages and these miners struck. The commission ordered district attorneys to start criminal proceedings against the miners, but the order has not been obeyed.

The commission then took a chance with butcher workmen, who are striking against a wage cut accepted by the packers' company "union." The commission ordered Tim McCreash, Dan Mullen and Gilbert Clary, district president, local president and local secretary, respectively, to call off the strike and command the butcher workmen to return to work. The union officials refused to obey the order and informed the commission that they were ready to go to jail.

The strikers have informed the commission that if their officials go to jail they will demand that they be put behind the bars, as they ordered the strike, and not McCreash, Mullen and Clary.

The commission is "up against the real thing," and observing citizens agree that the situation weakens respect for every law.

"RADICALS" NOT RADICALS.

New York, Dec. 17.—People who call themselves "radical" are in no sense radical, says Max D. Danish, editor of Justice, official magazine of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union. The labor editor says he intends showing in the near future that "our so-called radicals are, in more than one way, more backward in the realm of free thinking and searching for the truth than some conservatives.

"We shall prove that their 'radicalism' is of the petrified, moss-grown variety and that they live, breathe and act only in accord with a formally consecrated "code of conduct," from which they dare not deviate a hair's breath.

"Of course we do not speak here of the quasi-radical, of the fellow who merely cloaks himself in a mantle of radicalism to cover up his or her personal ambitions or cravings. We speak of the earnest variety, of those who believe in what they speak or write, those who are far more dangerous than the first species and who are likely to exercise a certain amount of influence, in a narrow way, and cause some injury to the labor movement."

FIRE BUG IS JAILED.

San Francisco, Dec. 17.—"Frame Up" Emerson has been given an indeterminate sentence ranging from two years to life by the superior court of Contra Costa county. He was found guilty of setting fire to the property of the Associated oil company at Avon during the recent strike of oil workers. Emerson was sent to the company by a well-known strikebreaking agency and when arrested the company refused to prosecute him. The trial showed that the attempted arson had all the ear marks of a "frame up" against trade unionists.

HUGE PROFITS IN MILK.

Washington, Dec. 17.—In sueing for a larger share of the estate of a deceased dairyman in this city the widow makes affidavit that clear profits in the milk business was $100,000 annually.

This profit was net after taxes and interest on investment and all other charges were paid.

RECORDS ARE IGNORED BY RAILROAD MANAGER

Akron, Ohio, Dec. 17.—In defending the anti-union policy of the Pennsylvania railroad in a speech before the local chamber of commerce, Vice President Atterbury of that railroad overlooked certain admissions made by his railroad to the railroad labor board.

He said "there is no effort to proscribe union labor on the Pennsylvania system."

In its decision in the case of this railroad versus its organized shop crafts, in which it set aside the vote to establish a company "union," the railroad labor board said:

"The carrier had no more right to undertake to assume control of the selection of the representatives of the employes than the employes would have had to supervise the naming of the representatives of the carrier, for the (Cummins-Esch) statute plainly provides that the employes shall 'designate and authorize their representatives.'"

In defending his company "union," Mr. Atterbury said: "Out of approximately 176,000 employes interested and affected by rules covering working conditions, 117,000, or 66.5 per cent of them, have, by vote or otherwise, as a result of conference with them, expressed a desire to negotiate rules and working conditions through employe representatives."

Here is what the railroad labor board said:

"As evidence of the fact that no real test of the choice of the employes has been had, the carrier in its own presentation to this board admits that, exclusive of the Altoona shops, only 3,450 men voted, out of 33,104 (shop men) entitled to vote for the alleged representatives who are now negotiating rules. In other words only 10.5 per cent of these employes are represented in these negotiations, and 89.5 per cent are virtually disfranchised. This is the big, outstanding uncontroverted fact presented in this case, and undoubtedly the law presents a remedy for such a wrong."

Rail Labor Board Enjoined by Landis

Chicago, Dec. 17.—Federal Judge Landis has complied with the request of the Pennsylvania railroad that the railroad labor board be enjoined from publishing a decision against that railroad. The court's order is temporary.

Clashes with the railroad board started when the road organized its company "union." The board ruled that members of trade unions were disfranchised, and quoted admissions by the railroad officials to sustain this point. The railroad was ordered to hold a new election, but it has not done so and now secures an injunction restraining the board from making public this defiance of a governmental board.

The railroad says the board has exceeded its authority. The board replies that it is acting on that section of the Cummins-Esch law which requires carriers and their employes to "exert every reasonable effort" to avoid any interruption in the operation of the roads, and in the event of a dispute the board shall act.

The Pennsylvania is spending large amounts of money to create a friendly public opinion and it wants the federal judiciary to check an exposure of its real purpose.

RATES ARE GUARANTEED.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The boldest railroad propaganda is the claim that the Cummins-Esch act does not guarantee railroads a fixed return on their investment, and that the law simply calls for a "fair return."

In refuting this repeated statement Senator Kendrick quoted from a recent decision by the interstate commerce commission, which ruled in effect, that regardless of the language of the act, the intent is clear that rates are authorized to net 5 1-2 per cent, with an additional 4-2 per cent for improvements.

"We have no discretion," said the commission, referring to the mandate that the 5 1-2 per cent and 1-2 per cent shall be applied.

The senator said that the interstate commerce commission was established to protect the public from the extortions of railroads, but under the Cummins-Esch act the commission "has been required to ignore and disregard entirely the rights of the shipper."

"It is true that 5 or 6 per cent can not be called a high rate of income, if based on a fair valuation. The case against the guaranty clause is clear. It is fundamentally unsound, because a law which lays a tax upon all industry for the benefit of one is indefensible from any point of view.

"Not in a generation has the west been in a more critical position than it is today, and I have no hesitancy in saying that the high freight rates caused by this guaranty clause contribute the factor which more than any other one thing is preventing readjustment. There can be no 'return to normalcy' while industry as a whole is laboring under this unjustifiable tax."

POSTPONE FOREIGN DEBTS.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The senate finance committee has approved the funding of the $11,000,000,000 debt owed the United States by foreign governments into obligations maturing not later than June 15, 1947, and bearing not less than 5 per cent interest.

This means that the debts will be postponed for 26 years and that they will bear at least 5 per cent interest. The senate committee accepted that part of the house bill which provides that no part of either the principal or interest of any of the debts can be canceled, and the bonds of one government can not be accepted in payment of the debts of another government.

COAL MINE FATALITIES.

Washington, Dec. 17.—During September 152 men were killed in and about the coal mines of this country, as compared withe 197 killed in September, last year, reports the bureau of mines. The estimate is based on statements to the bureau by the various state mine inspectors.

UNORGANIZED ARE CUT.

Bangor, Me., Dec. 17.—Unorganized timber workers agree that "trade unionism is all right" since their wages have been cut to $1.75 and $2 a day.

LABOR COMMODITY THEORY REJECTED BY POSTAL HEAD

Slave Pen Ideal of Garyism and Burlinsonism Is Kicked Out of Post Office Department by Postmaster General Hays.

Washington, Dec. 17.—One of the hardest raps that a government official ever gave Garyism and Burlinsonism is found in the first annual report of Postmaster General Hays, who serves notice on governmental and private autocrats that the postoffice department will not be a model slave pen.

"We are away in the postoffice service from any idea that labor is a commodity," he says.

"To treat a postal employe as a mere commodity in the labor market is not only wicked from a humanitarian standpoint, but it is foolish and short-sighted even from a business standpoint.

"An employe, who is conscious that he is regarded as a mere commodity, will do enough to 'get by' and keep his job until he finds another, and he will do no more. He contributes nothing to the morale of the organization; the chances are, in fact, there will be no morale to which to contribute. He grouches and passes on his grouch. Feeling that he is ill treated by his government he does his work badly, that soon everybody is growling at the mail service and at the government. A postal employe, on the other hand, who is regarded as a human being, whose welfare is important to his fellows, high and low, in the national postal organization, is bound to do his work with a courage, a zest, and a thoroughness which no money alone can buy. The security he feels he passes on to the men and women he serves. Instead of a distrust of his government, he radiates confidence in it."

The postmaster general presents this direct rebuke to the slave ideals of his predecessor:

"When we took hold of the administration of the postal service, seeking for some point of application in an earnest desire quickly to improve the service, we looked at the relation that existed between the employes and the department. It seemed that there was the field in which the greatest progress might be made in the shortest time.

"That honest and efficient labor should have a voice in these phases of the management of a business which concerns working conditions and a living wage commensurate with the value of the service is but common justice."

Jazz Music Not Needed Where Work Interests

New York, Dec. 17.—Welfare workers and jazzers in industry are on the wrong course because they would divert the attention from work to recreation, according to Walter N. Polokov, consulting engineer in an address at the annual meeting of the American society of mechanical engineers.

The speaker said work should be made interesting rather than attempt to amuse workers and divert their attention from "the monotony of animal-like work."

This welfare work was referred to as "spiritual cocaine intended to help endure a painful operation."

"This was some times temporarily expedient," he said, "yet the moral effect was decidedly degrading because of the silent admission that work is a curse, that no attention should be fixed on production, that there is no interest or satisfaction to be found in industry and that special reward and entertainment is to be looked for outside of one's vocation.

"Such a practice eventually ruins the spirit of industry and breeds further demoralization."

"CAN'T-STRIKE" PLAN AGAIN PROVEN FAULTY

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, Dec. 17.—Among the latest to acknowledge that the Australian "can't-strike" law has failed is T. R. Ashworth, president of the Victorian employers' federation. At the annual meeting of the federation, held in this city, Mr. Ashworth also frankly blamed employers for present conditions.

"Strikes for inadequate reasons, and in defiance of the awards of industrial tribunals," he said, "have caused prolonged suspension of many industries, and those concerned with coal mining and shipping have caused widespread stoppage of work in other trades.

"The truculent attitude of labor has lessened the investment of capital in the expansion of existing industries and in launching new enterprises. But while as employers we are keenly alive to the shortcomings of labor's policy, we should remember that in each case they are a reaction against the inevitable errors of the past which were associated with the development of a new industrial system. For instance, if labor is making the mistake of striving for unduly short hours, and is inclined to go-slow methods, we must admit that in the past excessive hours were worked and the pace was forced, with the result that efficiency was impaired through physical and moral deterioration.

"Can not employers and wage earners both realize that they are still largely in the grip of error and unite their forces to slay this common enemy? Criticisms by each of the policy of the other is the best weapon for the purpose."

FRENCH TURNOVER TAX IS NOT SUCCESSFUL

New York, Dec. 17.—Advocates of the sales tax in the United States will get little consolation from an article written in the Annalist, financial paper, by Alzada Comstock, on "Lessons of the French Turnover Tax."

"The 18-months' trial of the turnover tax which France is now completing," he says, "augurs badly for similar experiments which are being urged in the United States.

"The French tax deserves a closer inspection than is usually given it by proponents of the sales tax in this country. Sales taxes levied in the Philippines and in Mexico can hardly be considered perfect illustrations for the purposes of a great industrial and commercial country like our own. The Canadian sales tax is also cited, but Canada's business is on a small scale compared with ours."

In stating that conditions in France is more nearly comparable to the United States, Mr. Comstock says that the French tax yields but one-third of what it was estimated to yield.

"The lessons for the United States are clear. The two chief dangers of the sales tax are the possibilities of evasion and the inequalities of application to agricultural and business classes."

BLANTON BRAYS AGAIN.

Chicago, Dec. 17.—In a speech before the annual meeting of the Illinois manufacturers' association Congressman Blanton made his first public bray since his narrow escape from being expelled by the house of representatives for having obscenity printed in the Congressional Record.

Blanton was in his glory. He was surrounded by employers who have fought trade unions, who have resisted legislation for working women and children, and who have backed some of the most vicious injunction judges in America.

Blanton's bray may be judged by his claim that "Gompers forced the passage of the Adamson law by a strike threat."

The records show that not a single member of organized labor, in the trade unions or the railroad brotherhoods, urged the passage of this law.

TEAMSTERS ENJOINED.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 17.—Organized teamsters have been enjoined by Vice Chancellor Backes, who has issued one of his sweeping writs. The teamsters are restrained from demanding that employers agree that only union teamsters be employed.

This injunction judge is quite confident that he can force teamsters to forego their right to choose whom they will work with.

LESS POSTAL SAVINGS.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Postal savings decreased $1,400,000 during November, according to a statement by the post office department. Deposits in smaller post offices increased, while in the larger cities withdrawals exceeded deposits. The total deposits are estimated at $144,000,000.

Railway Carmen's Educational Effort

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 17. — The Brotherhood Railway Carmen has made a distinct contribution to industrial and trade union literature by the publication of a 200-page book entitled "The Work of the Railway Carmen."

General President Ryan, of the brotherhood, conceived the idea, and Edmond K. Hogan, a member of the organization, executed it, with the assistance of fellow-members. The book is printed on calendered paper and is profusely illustrated.

The purpose of the book, it is stated, is to help the carman to realize more fully the importance and dignity of his work; to give him a truer index of his place in the railroad industry, and a just pride in his contribution to the life of the country; to assist the prospective apprentice; to aid the apprentice carman, and to bring to the mind of the public a true picture of the work of the railway carman.

In the opening chapter it is stated "the railway car is a more complex type of structure than is a house," and that "few outside of railway circles are aware that there are 250,000 men engaged in the building and repairing of railway cars."

The price of the book is $2.50, and can be secured at the offices of the Brotherhood Railway Carmen, this city.

INJUNCTION AIDS ROADS.

Washington, Dec. 17.—"Nothing that courts can do will more quickly destroy public confidence in their own integrity than continued abuse of their own power," says President Gompers in a public statement on an order issued by Federal Judge Landis in which the railroad labor board is restrained from publishing its decision against the Pennsylvania railroad for violation of an order.

"It may be permissible," says the A. F. of L. executive, "to recall the fact that the government stood ready to use all necessary force to compel coal miners to operate the mines when mine wages were in dispute. Indications are that the last riot gun would be summoned to compel workers to accept decisions adverse to labor.

"But the Pennsylvania railroad goes into court and gets a piece of paper which not only stops the award, but prevents its publication.

"The railroad labor board is in itself an institution of more than doubtful worth, but the fact that a court can stop the publishing of a decision reached by any government agency is repugnant to every ideal of democracy. The effect of the injunction is to prohibit the people of the United States from reading the decision of a government agency and the principle is exactly the same as it would be if the courts were to forbid the people from reading the president's message."

LIVING COSTS ALARM.

New York, Dec. 17.—High rents and other increased living costs has junked the propaganda that high wages is responsible for high prices.

One information service for contractors and builders tells its patrons that "the turn in the cost of living will make radical wage reductions in building labor an unsafe element to figure on."

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace reports that the farmer is receiving less for his products, considering the purchasing power of his dollar, than ever before. Wages have been hammered down, in many instances, to almost a pre-war level, but living costs refuse to sustain the claim that "high" wages are responsible for high living costs.

IGNORE PEOPLE'S MANDATE.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 17.—The eight-hour law, approved by the people at the 1914 election, is ignored by the city government and organized labor threatens to take legal action that the law be complied with. Cheap-wage employers would knife the people's mandate.

LAUNDRY WORKERS UNITE.

Pana, Ill., Dec. 17.—Laundry workers at this place have organized and are asking for higher wages and a 48-hour week.

CANAL ECONOMY PLAN UNWISE AND UNJUST

Balboa, Canal Zone, Dec. 17.—Recommendations of a commission appointed by Secretary of War Weeks to investigate the Panama canal zone are unwise, unjust and in some cases ridiculous, says H. A. McConaughey, president of the Panama metal trades council, in a statement which the council is distributing to the trade union movement.

The Weeks report calls for a reduction of wages and an increase of the governor's salary.

It is shown that white employes on the canal zone are but 50 per cent organized, yet the commission reported that "the 'open' shop exists in theory only, and that the government should cease to deal with representatives of labor organizations."

"This recommendation," says President McConaughey, "clearly reveals the fact that this commission considered that their mission to the canal zone was to break up labor unions and install the sort of an 'open' shop policy that consists of preferential treatment to non-union workers.

"The work of the sanitary department on the canal zone was declared to be splendid, but the commission discovered the alarming fact that the malarial rates and the mortality rates were lower on the Panama canal zone than in certain districts in the United States. This would never do! The canal zone is too healthy! The commission promptly recommends that the sanitary work be decreased to a point where the malarial rate would be on a par with the above-mentioned localities in the United States. This will be good news for the undertakers."

GUN MEN IN ILLINOIS.

Chicago, Dec. 17.—The Illinois state federation of labor is appealing for moral and financial aid in behalf of striking fluor spar miners in Rosiclare, Hardin county, who have been on strike since September, last year, for the right to organize. This county is without railroad facilities, and the only means of transportation is the Ohio river. Conditions are of the slave camp brand, and workers have battled for several years against this peonage.

Five years ago James Lord, president of the A. F. of L. mining department, reported to that convention: "Almost every crime in the calendar has been committed by the hirelings of the company, with a full knowledge and apparent sanction of the sheriff of Hardin county."

In the present strike gun men have driven workers from their homes, and their families have been threatened and insulted.

At the last convention of the Illinois state federation Governor Small was asked to make an investigation of these outrages, and also inquire into working conditions that are forced upon these workers.

Fluor spar is a gaseous, non-metallic element used in the manufacture of steel. The Rosiclare fields are the largest in this country.

NO CHANGE IN FOOD COSTS.

Washington, Dec. 17.—There was practically no change in food costs from October 15 to November 15 in nine of the principal cities of the United States, according to the bureau of labor statistics.

In six cities the decrease averaged but 1 5-6 per cent, as follows: Cincinnati, 3 per cent; Indianapolis, Milwaukee and Portland, Me., 2 per cent; Chicago and Omaha, 1 per cent.

Houston reports an increase of 1 per cent and Newark an increase of four-tenths of 1 per cent. Buffalo reports no change.

LESS RAIL ACCIDENTS.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Fewer people were killed in 1920 on American railroads than in any year since 1895, according to the interstate commerce commission.

Last year's figures show that a railroad passenger's chances of getting killed was one in 5,672,000.

RETAIL CLERKS AWAKE.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 17.—The Retail Clerks' union in this city has been reorganized.